

TITLE 16. DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Dental Board of California is proposing to take the action described in the Informative Digest. Any person interested may present statements or arguments orally or in writing relevant to the action proposed at a hearing to be held at the Department of Consumer Affairs, 1625 North Market Blvd., Sacramento, California, at 1:00pm, on May 15, 2007. Written comments, including those sent by mail, facsimile, or e-mail to the addresses listed under Contact Person in this Notice, must be received by the Dental Board of California at its office not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 14, 2007 or must be received by the Dental Board of California at the hearing. The Dental Board of California, upon its own motion or at the instance of any interested party, may thereafter adopt the proposals substantially as described below or may modify such proposals if such modifications are sufficiently related to the original text. With the exception of technical or grammatical changes, the full text of any modified proposal will be available for 15 days prior to its adoption from the person designated in this Notice as contact person and will be mailed to those persons who submit written or oral testimony related to this proposal or who have requested notification of any changes to the proposal.

Authority and Reference: Pursuant to the authority vested by Sections 1614 and 1767 of the Business and Professions Code, and to implement, interpret or make specific Section 1774 of said Code, the Dental Board of California is considering changes to Division 10 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations as follows:

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

Amend Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 1079.2

Business and Professions Code Section 1774 specifies the requirements for licensure as a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice (RDHAP). One of the requirements (subdivision (a)(1)(A)) is that he or she has been “engaged in clinical practice as a dental hygienist for a minimum of 2,000 hours during the immediately preceding 36 months.”

At the time that Section 1774 was enacted (January 1, 1998-AB 560), there was no statutory definition of what constitutes the practice of dental hygiene. Section 1760.5 which defines the practice of dental hygiene was enacted several years later (January 1, 2003 – SB 2022). Due to Legislative oversight Section 1774 was not amended at the same time to include the comprehensive definition of dental hygiene practice.

The purpose of the proposed change is to clarify the meaning of the term “clinical practice” as it pertains to the requirements that a person must meet to obtain a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice (RDHAP) license.

The amendments would clarify that the term “clinical practice” is not limited to private practice in dental offices. This change is necessary because there has been inconsistency and confusion as to what duties in the practice of registered dental hygiene are considered “clinical” for purposes of accruing hours to qualify for licensure as an RDHAP. This amendment would clarify that registered dental hygienists (RDHs) who provide dental hygiene services in all settings, including public health settings and educational programs, may apply the hours that they practice dental hygiene, as defined in Business and Professions Code Section 1760.5, towards the required 2,000 hours of clinical practice required for licensure as a RDHAP.

The proposed changes would also eliminate the provision that allows credit for 1,000 hours of hygiene clinical instruction toward the 2,000 hours of practice required for RDHAP licensure because it would no longer be necessary based on the above-described amendment.

FISCAL IMPACT ESTIMATES

Fiscal Impact on Public Agencies Including Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None

Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None

Local Mandate: None

Cost to Any Local Agency or School District for Which Government Code Section 17561 Requires Reimbursement: None

Business Impact:

The board has made an initial determination that the proposed regulatory action would have no significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

AND

The following studies/relevant data were relied upon in making the above determination:

These regulations will affect only a small number of Registered Dental Hygienists who are currently working as educators or in the

public health field and may potentially seek future licensure as RDHAP.

Impact on Jobs/New Businesses:

The Dental Board of California has determined that this regulatory proposal will not have a significant impact on the creation of jobs or new businesses or the elimination of jobs or existing businesses or the expansion of businesses in the State of California.

Cost Impact on Representative Private Person or Business:

The Dental Board of California is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

Effect on Housing Costs: None

EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS

The Dental Board of California has determined that the proposed regulations would not affect small businesses unless those small businesses were dental offices. If a dental office that is a small business intended to employ an RDHAP, there may be a slight increase in the number of potential RDHAP licensees that can be considered for employment.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

The Dental Board of California must determine that no reasonable alternative it considered to the regulation or that has otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would either be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposal described in this Notice.

Any interested person may present statements or arguments orally or in writing relevant to the above determinations at the above-mentioned hearing.

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND INFORMATION

The Dental Board of California has prepared an initial statement of the reasons for the proposed action and has available all the information upon which the proposal is based.

TEXT OF PROPOSAL

Copies of the exact language of the proposed regulations and of the initial statement of reasons, and all of the information upon which the proposal is based, may be obtained at the hearing or prior to the hearing upon request from the Dental Board of California at 1432 Howe Avenue, Suite 85, Sacramento, California 95825.

AVAILABILITY AND LOCATION OF THE FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND RULEMAKING FILE

All the information upon which the proposed regulations are based is contained in the rulemaking file which is available for public inspection by contacting the person named below.

You may obtain a copy of the final statement of reasons once it has been prepared, by making a written request to the contact person named below **[or by accessing the website listed below]**.

CONTACT PERSON

Inquiries or comments concerning the proposed rulemaking action may be addressed to:

Name:	Donna Kantner
Address:	1432 Howe Avenue, Suite 85 Sacramento, CA 95825
Telephone No.:	(916) 263-2300 x2308
Fax No.:	(916) 263-2140
E-Mail Address:	Donna_Kantner@dca.ca.gov

The backup contact person is:

Name:	Elizabeth Ware, COMDA Executive Officer
Address:	1428 Howe Avenue, Suite 58 Sacramento, CA 95825
Telephone No.:	(916) 263-2595
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Website Access: Materials regarding this proposal can be found at www.comda.ca.gov.